MARC

SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 4, April 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club provided emergency backup communications for Johnson County for the Total Solar Eclipse through Johnson County Emergency Management. 18 MARC AuxComm group members served at 4 Sheriff's/Fire Department Division Command Centers, the JC EOC at the Sheriff's Department, and the MARC EOC. Our LE and Fire partners were gracious hosts at each County site making us feel welcome and appreciated.

The MARC VHF repeater was used initially, but due to interference at some sites, we switched to our backup, the MARC UHF repeater as per our communication plan. Fortunately, we never had to resort to any simplex backup frequencies. We had Net check-Ins hourly with each site, led by the MARC EOC personnel. Thank you to all who participated.

Coverage was scheduled from 5 am - 5 pm to coincide with the JCSD shift schedule. The weather turned out to be beautiful, with only a few clouds. We never lost cellular communication, nor did the County trunked radio system have issues that would have required us to use Amateur Radio as a backup. We enjoyed over 4 minutes of eclipse totality, and traffic outflow was so smooth, we were released from our posts an hour early.

The Division A Command volunteers.

Thank you once again for volunteering and your professionalism. The County appreciated the comfort knowing they would not completely lose communication in a worst case scenario.

Tim Aldridge, WC9G
President, Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

April Birthdays

N9RO --- Shane Aldrich

KI6QOG --- Jacki Frederick

KD9OQC --- Richard Szepski

KC9VGT --- Chris Eadler

Spring Severe Weather Preparations Begin

The severe weather season (March through May) is here, and the National Weather Service (NWS) offices across the country are prepared. Warning Coordination Meteorologist Brandon Peloquin at the Wilmington, Ohio, NWS office said many of the NWS offices across the country meet with partner organizations in the spring to make plans for the weather ahead. "Amateur radio operators and weather spotters are extremely important, and we could not do what we do without them," he said. "In fact, many of the watches and warnings issued are made because weather spotters provided critical information."

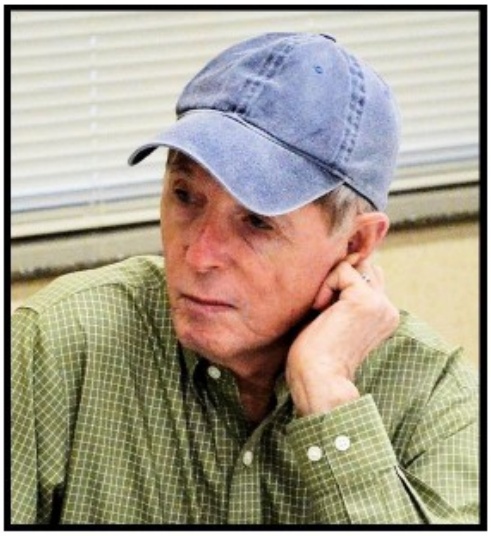
Peloquin said that Doppler radar is a great tool for tracking storms, but weather spotters have a different vantage point and can see things that radar can't.

Severe Weather Awareness Weeks are scheduled by each state and usually occur during March to remind and educate communities about severe weather seasonal threats and how to avoid them. The NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program is a volunteer program with almost 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. Spotter training is available at the state level and is offered several times each year. Every December, NWS and ARRL hold SKYWARN Recognition Day to honor all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions during severe weather. --

..... ARRL News April 2024

RUDELL RICHARDSON, KN9C, SK

MARC members are mourning the passing of Rudell Richardson, KN9C on March 27th. "Rudy" was a long-time club member and a close friend to may of us, especially John Wampner, W9YD. They grew very close over 30 years and shared ham radio.
At the age of 84, Rudy became became a Silent Key.



John, W9YD, shared his thoughts…

Rudy was: A Great friend.

1. A Christian.
He and I talked about this matter several times over the 30 plus years I knew him. I guarantee he is feeling better right now than he ever did during his life here on earth. I suspect his older daughter, Tammy, who passed three or four years ago, was waiting for him when he arrived in Heaven and he is now getting the grand tour.

2. Generous to a fault.
When we were out and about Rudy would want to give some money to any of these stew bums you see on the street corners. At one of our breakfast group spots, The Paradise Cafe, one of the young waitresses took advantage of Rudy after her father died. She adopted Rudy as her father figure and was always hitting him up for money.....and some of the rest of us too. I think I paid her light bill one time.
Rudy was very kind and would give you the shirt off his back.

3. *A big trickster.*
At his workplace all the guys liked to play tricks on each other. One I remember was, one of the guys always like to be first in line to clock out, so he would place his lunch box on the end of this wooden bench nearest the time clock so he could run, grab his lunch box and be first in line.

So, one day during the shift Rudy grabbed a nail gun and shot a couple rounds through the bottom of his co-worker's lunch box nailing to the bench. You can just picture what happen when this guy comes racing to get his lunch box and got the surprise of his life that day.

Pay back.

One day the guys went to eat at some fast food spot for lunch. Rudy is in line behind this gal and the lunch box guy is behind Rudy. Well, lunch box guy reaches around Rudy and grabs this gal's butt and the she spins around and gives Rudy a piece of her mind. Rudy got an earful and was reduced to stuttering but, but, but, but.

4. And last of all,

Rudy was a DXer. Rudy has 'em all except *Scarborough Reef* unless they have added some in the last few years.

John W9YD

Photo by Jack, w8ish

Dayton Hamvention® 2024 will be held May 17-19, 2024 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. The Hamvention® is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). 2024 logo and theme of "Expanding Our Community" is one that describes every Elmer's efforts. They give back to the hobby by teaching and encouraging others to either start or expand their radio knowledge. This takes many forms. Some of these are electronic knowledge, new modes of radio communications, learning emergency communication requirements, and finding unrelated fields/hobbies that augment radio communication and knowledge.

Experimentation is the bedrock of Amateur Radio.

An Accident Report

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block no 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "poor planning" as the cause of my unfortunate accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust that the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amatuer radio operator. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carrying the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at the ground level I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in block number eleven of the accident form that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

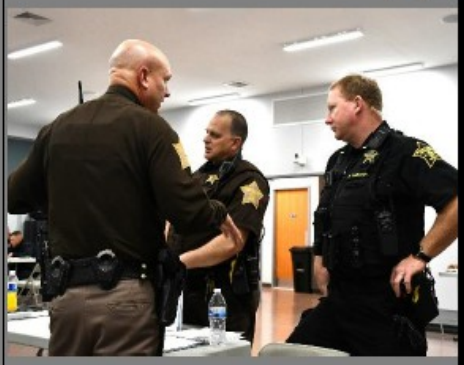
Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground - and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighs 20 pounds.

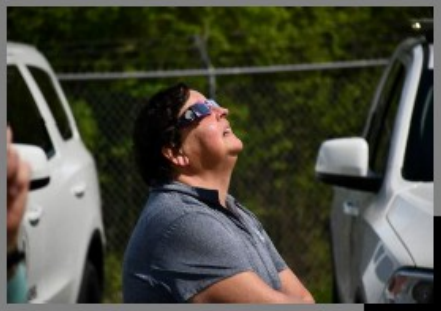
I refer you again to my weight in block number eleven. As you might I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrea were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand, and watch the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope.....!

Thanks Bill, WB9FIK for this story.

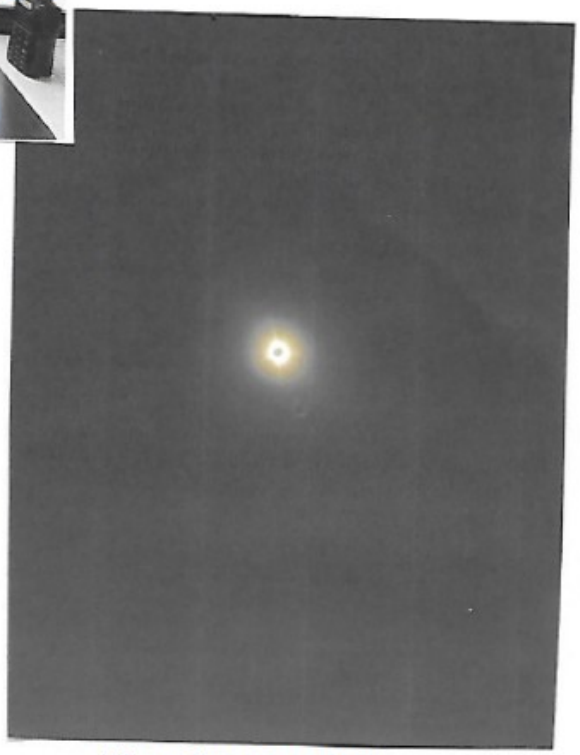
ECLIPSE EOC STAFF AND AMATEUR RADI O





ECLIPSE WATCH DIVISION "A"
AND AMATEUR RADIO

Tim and crew on duty the Center Grove EOC



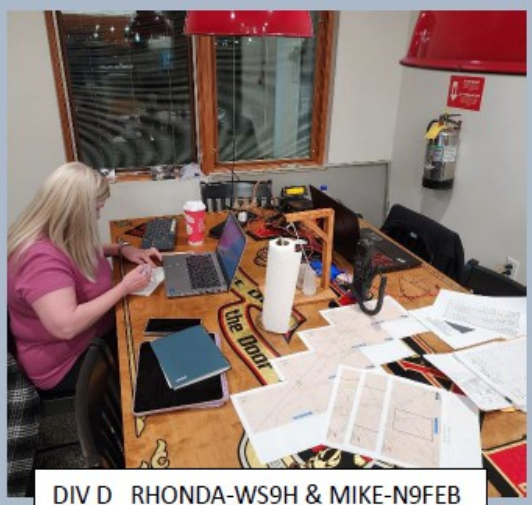
The Eclipse in person.

Jim - KD9WVD, Rusty - N9LLP, Tim - WC9G

ECLIPSE WATCH AT DIVISION “B” NEEDHAM

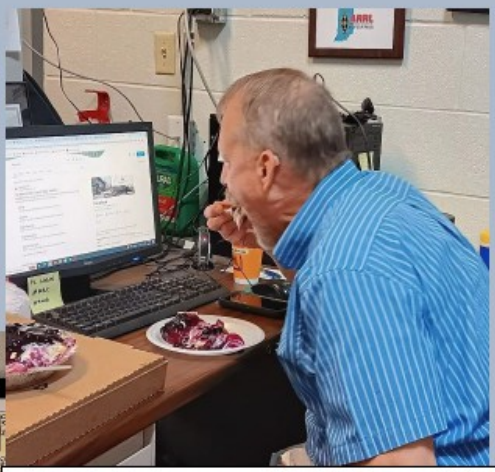
RADIO ROOM AND D IVISION “D” TRAFALGAR

DIV B KYLE-AD9CR & JEREMEY-NQ8M

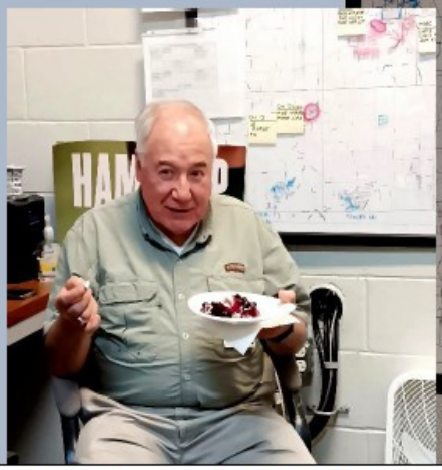


DIV D RHONDA-WS9H & MIKE-N9FEB

DIV B NEEDHAM FIRE DEPT



RADIO RM NET CONTROL MIKE-KC9WLR



RADIO RM BOB-N9SIU NET CONTROL

RADIO RM CHRIS-AB9G NET CONTROL

UP COMING HAM RADIO EVENTS

The **Museum Ships Weekend** is an annual **amateur radio operating event** where ham radio operators (HAMS) set up stations on retired maritime vessels—both military and commercial—from around the world. The goal is to allow the amateur community to **contact these historic museum entities** and receive written confirmation of their communication. It's a celebration of maritime history and a chance for radio enthusiasts to connect with these iconic ships.

Here are some details about the upcoming **Museum Ships Weekend** in 2024:

- **Event Dates**: From **0000Z on June 1, 2024**, to **2359Z on June 2, 2024**.
- (ed. 2000hrs, UTC, May 31, until 2000hrs, UTC, June 2.)
- **Objective**: This is **not a contest**; it's a **fun event** that encourages communication and appreciation of museum ships.
- **Participating Ships**: Over **58 ships** are expected to participate, including aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers, tugboats, and more.
- **Top Operators**: The event recognizes top operators who engage in radio communication during this special weekend.

Some notable participating ships include:

(ed. Our own USS Indianapolis Memorial downtown Indy, WW2IND.)

1. **USS Hornet (NB6GC)**: An aircraft carrier located in Alameda Point, CA.
2. **USS Missouri (KH6BB)**: A battleship stationed at Pearl Harbor, HI.
3. **USS Littlerock (W2PE)**: A cruiser in Buffalo, NY.
4. **HMAS Vampire (VK2VMP)**: A destroyer from Sydney, Australia.
5. **CSS Neuse (KN4RAM)**: A Civil War ironclad gunboat in Kinston, NC (available on June 1 only).

Remember, this event is all about having fun, making connections, and celebrating the rich maritime heritage represented by these museum ships. So, if you're a ham radio operator, get ready to tune in and join the excitement!

FYI: Rte 66 OTA event scheduled for Sept 7 - 15, 2024

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Chris - KQ9Y

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

Auburn Hamfest
Start Date: 07/20/2024
End Date: 07/20/2024
Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
1600 Wayne Street
Auburn, IN 46706
Website: http://w9ou.org
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone
Public Contact: John Chalmers , W9GOO
P.O. Box 145 Auburn, IN 46706
Phone: 260-927-5746
Email: W9OU@arrl.net

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Divison Convention
Start Date: 08/03/2024
End Date: 08/03/2024
Location: Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway
Elkhart, IN 46514
Website: http://elkharteasthamfest.com
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.330+ / 131.8
Public Contact: Dewey Thrash , K9DEW
53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507
Phone: 574-370-2436
Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest
Start Date: 08/10/2024
End Date: 08/10/2024
Location: Avon United Methodist Church
6850 E. US Hwy 36
Avon, IN 46123
Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.130 MHz PL-Tone 88.5
Public Contact: Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD
3090 Clover Dr. Plainfield, IN 46168
Phone: 317-874-7068
Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com

ARANCI Hamfest
Start Date: 08/11/2024
End Date: 08/11/2024
Location: Lake Village Community Center
9728 North 300 West
Lake Village, IN 46349
Sponsor: ARANCI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.330 pl 131.8
Public Contact: Michael Swiader , KA9E
PO Box 215 Lake Village, IN 46349
Phone: 815-409-5070
Email: ka9e@yahoo.com

Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Start Date: 10/12/2024
End Date: 10/12/2024
Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
11265 US-50
Bedford, IN 47421
Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/
Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL
PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421
Phone: 812-675-6733
Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com

CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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